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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2005

Young boys find body in woods

By JOHN SURRETT
The Mississippi Press

PASCAGOULA — Jackson County authorities are seeking the identity of a man whose body was found in a wooded area off Miss. 57 late Saturday afternoon.

"He had a gunshot wound to the right side of the head," Sheriff Mike Byrd said. "We are investigating this as a homicide."

Authorities believe the man had been dead for about five to six hours when he was found by several young boys who were riding four-wheelers in the area Saturday afternoon.

Coroner Vicki Broadus said an autopsy would probably be performed on the body sometime this morning.

Byrd said the sheriff's department received a call about the body at 4:01 p.m. Saturday.

"The boys may have found him about 3:45," he said. "They were riding their four-wheelers and had a dog with them. The dog walked off and started barking. They tried to call him, but the dog wouldn't come back, so they went to get him and found the body."

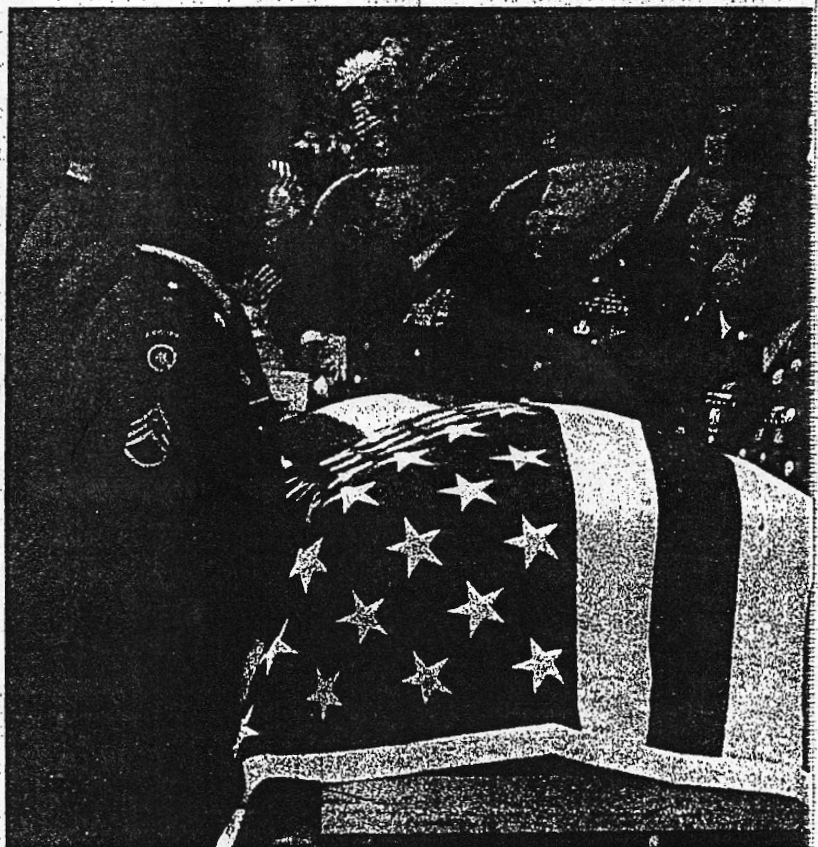
He said the boys went first to their father to tell him what happened and then called the sheriff's department.

The man is described as about 18 to 21 years old, 6 feet tall and weighing about 175 pounds. He had short reddish-brown hair that was combed forward and was wearing a black Dickies baseball cap, yellow knit shirt with a black undershirt, blue jeans and white tennis shoes. He was also wearing a herringbone chain necklace.

Anyone with information about the man's identity should call the sheriff's department at 769-3063 or 769-3065 and ask for Lt. Kim Versiga.

Pascagoula updating hazard mitigation plan

MASTER SGT. SEAN COOL SOLDIER BUT WITH HONOR



Photos/WI

Army National Guardsmen bear the casket of the late Master Sgt. Sean Cool to the Benndale Cemetery in Benndale Saturday afternoon.

Slain guardsmen laid to rest in Geo

By JOHN SURRETT

go for five
in a row in '05

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over Crab Jr.'s
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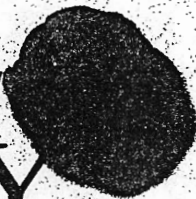
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FEBRUARY 14, 2005

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and Lyle Van Veghel since 1979, when they started delivering out their son. The delivery duo will brighten the lives of sever-

Man shot twice in head

By JOHN SURRETT

The Mississippi Press

PASCAGOULA — Jackson County authorities continued their investigation into the identity of a man whose body was found late Saturday afternoon in a wooded area off Miss. 57 in Vancleave.

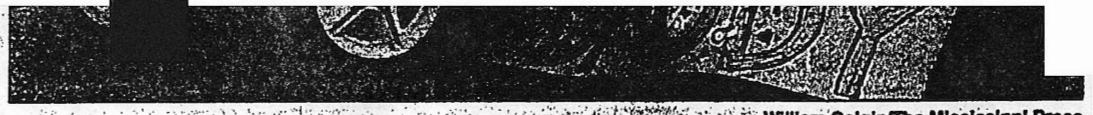
The man's body was found about 3:45 p.m. Saturday by a group of boys who were riding four-wheelers in the area. They found the body when

See BODY, Page 5-A

Northrop suppliers to visit

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the Coast Guard last
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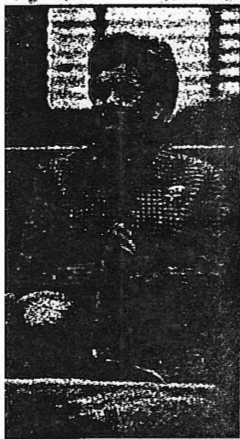
er John Surratt can
d at jsurratt@the-mis-
ess.com or (228) 934-



William Colgin/The Mississippi Press

Shawna Runt and her two daughters, Hayley, 3, and Alaina, 15 months old, display a welcome home sign for Chief Petty Officer Chris Runt as his ship, the Coast Guard Cutter Shamal, returns to port after a five-week deployment in the Caribbean.

f American shipbuilding." op Grumman Ship Systems' roperty in Pascagoula



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you can expect a fol-

low up," he said. "It's a tremen-
dous vision of the future of
American shipbuilding.

Other officials agreed.

"We hope the players will get
together and make it happen,"
said Rep. Billy Broomfield, D-
Miss Point. "It's a win win sit-
uation."

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shipbuilding facilities in New
Orleans and Gulfport and
builds vessels for the Navy and
the Coast Guard.

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private employer, with more
than 12,000 workers. The com-
pany is one of the nation's
largest defense contractors,
with manufacturing plants in
several states. The company
generated \$7.85 billion in
2004.

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Body

From Page 1-A

their dog, which had wan-
dered off, began barking and
they went to investigate. Sher-
iff's deputies were called soon
after the discovery.

Initial information at the
scene indicated that the man
had been shot once in the
head. Coroner Vicki Broadus
said Sunday afternoon that
an autopsy performed Sunday
morning indicated that the
man had been shot twice —
once in the right side of the
head and once in the left side.

Broadus said authorities
were working hard to learn
the man's identity and author-
ities said they were investi-
gating some leads in the case.

The man is described as a
white male about 18 to 21
years old, 6 feet tall and
weighing about 175 pounds.
He had short reddish-brown

hair that was combed forward
and he was wearing a yellow
Tommy Hilfiger knit shirt
with a black Dickies under-
shirt, Chaps blue jeans and
Hanes red boxer shorts and
white Reebok tennis shoes. He
was also wearing a silver her-
ringbone chain necklace.

He had a swollen left eye
and a bruise on his jaw and
was wearing a white Ace knee
support on his right knee. A
black Dickies baseball cap was
found next to the body.

Anyone with information
about the man's identity
should call the sheriff's de-
partment at 769-3063 or 769-
3065 and ask for Lt. Kim Ver-
siga.

Reporter John Surratt can
be reached at jsurratt@the-
mississippipress.com or (228)
934-1427.

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TURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2005

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ALL COUNTS

er face May 6 sentencing

heard by Judge Louis
strict Court.

s of testimony and vol-
esented by both defense
e jury took one day to
inst Big Hill Acres and
tments CEO Robert J.
Lucas's daughter, Rob-

bie Lucas Wrigley, and engineer M.E.
Thompson.

The indictment alleged that the defen-
dants acted in concert to defraud home-
owners into purchasing uninhabitable land.
Underground systems were knowingly
installed in wetlands, the indictment fur-

See BIG HILL, Page 10-A



Robbie Lucas
Wrigley, daughter of
Big Hill Acres devel-
oper Robert J.
Lucas, leaves the
federal courthouse
in Gulfport, shortly
after her arraignment
last year. Wrigley,
Lucas and engineer
M.E. Thompson
were convicted Fri-
day of 41 counts of
fraud, conspiracy
and environmental
violations.

File Photo/The Mississippi Press

SOCIATION HEART WALK POWER



Arrest made in shooting death of teen

■ Authorities: Gautier
slaying may have
been drug-related

By JOHN SÚRRATT
The Mississippi Press

PASCAGOULA — Jack-
son County authorities have
arrested a Gautier man and
charged him with murder in
the Feb. 12 shooting death
of Michael Meldren, 18.

Sheriff Mike Byrd said
Josh Blake Riser, 20, of 3000
Holly Drive, Gautier, was
arrested about 4:30 p.m. Fri-



Risor

day during
a traffic stop
on Gautier-
Vancleave
Road.

He said
authorities
believe the
shooting
may have
been drug-
related.

Riser was being held in
the adult detention center
without bond pending an ini-

See MELDREN, Page 10-A

Teen charged in G'sly s'aying

By RON COLQUITT
The Mobile Register

The dis-
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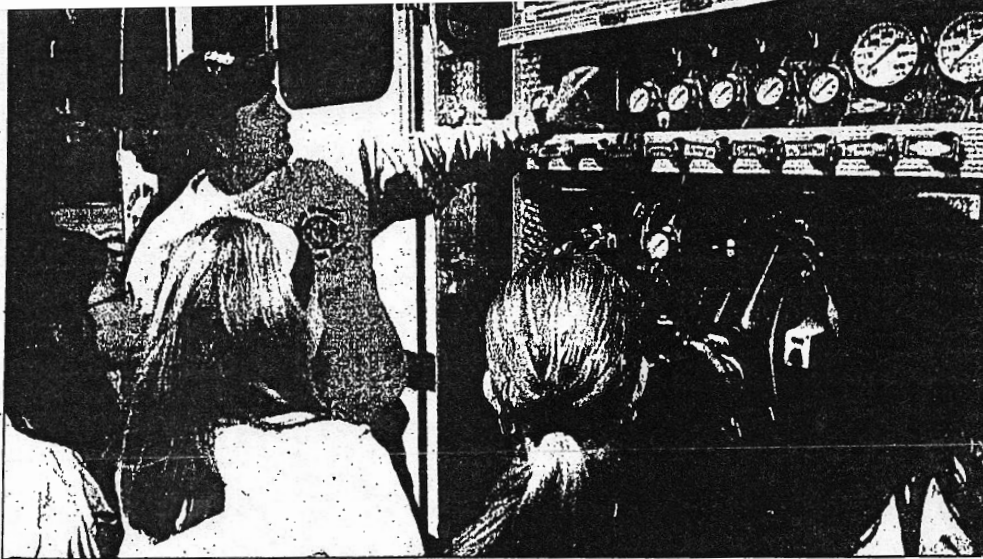
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William Colgin/The Mississippi Press

At left, students Tyler
Carter, left, and Cassie
Matthews look over an
X-ray Friday at the Be
SomeBody health and
safety fair at Taconi Ele-
mentary School. An
Ocean Springs fire
truck brought by Fire-
fighter David Herring,
above, was part of the
fair, which featured
health and safety
experts from the com-
munity.

Meldren

From Page 1-A

tial appearance in county court, which could be
held Monday.

The arrest was the result of an almost two-
week investigation into the shooting of Mel-
dren, whose body was found in a wooded area
off Miss. 57.

The shooting remains under investigation,
Byrd said.

A senior at Gautier High School, Meldren
was shot twice in the head. His body was
found late in the afternoon of Feb. 12 by boys



Meldren

riding all-terrain vehicles in
the area where Meldren was
shot. The body was discovered
when the boys went to find
out why their dog, which had
wandered away from them,
was barking.

Authorities believe Meldren
was shot in the same area ear-
lier in the day and left there.

Reporter John Surratt can
be reached at jsurratt@themississippiexpress.com
or (228) 934-1427.

Gilly

From Page 1-A

engineering. He was working at
the Grand Casino in Biloxi.

His body was discovered Feb.
18 at a house in the Hillsdale
neighborhood that he was renting
from the university, author-
ities said





MELDREN
Michael Raymond Meldren, 18, of Gautier, Miss., was taken too soon from his

family and friends, Saturday, Feb. 12, 2005. He was born Jan. 27, 1987, in Pascagoula. Michael was a Senior at Gautier High School. Michael was loved and admired by his family and many friends that he grew up with. He was to graduate from Gautier High School in May 2005, with plans to attend college and military in the near future. His many talents included making friends wherever he went. Among his favorite things to do were riding his dirt bike, jet skiing, golfing, rolling dice, weight lifting, skate boarding, playing football, playing baseball, raising pit bulls, play fighting with his brothers, fishing, and best of all, "kickin-it" with his many friends. Michael always wanted to meet Emmitt Smith #22 Dallas Cowboys — "his hero"! He had a passion for nice caps and nice clothes. He had planned on getting engaged to be married to Le Le Mallette of Vancleave.

Michael will be forever missed by his mother, father, brothers, girlfriend, and his many, many, friends and relatives. Although he no longer walks among us, he will live on in the hearts of everyone who knew and loved him. We will always remember his laughter.

Ellen Meldren, Gautier; four brothers, Clint F. Cole Jr., William Thomas Meldren, Jason Tyler Meldren, Austin Jacob Meldren, all of Gautier; maternal grandfather, Frances E. Dailey Sr., Gautier; uncle, Andy Boulton, Gautier; uncle, Francis E. Dailey Jr.; uncle, Glenn Eric Dailey, Gautier; aunt, Lola Christine Dailey Knowles, Gautier; aunt, Vanessa Long, Vancleave; uncle, Mitch Long, Vancleave; special girlfriend, Le Le Mallette, Vancleave; close friends, Josh Smith, Steven Stringer, Andrew Brewer, Brandon Burbage, Eric Westland, Jason Mixon, Wesley Heil and Nick Rucker.

Visitation will be from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, 2005, at O'Bryant-O'Keefe Funeral Home in Gautier.

Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18, 2005, at O'Bryant-O'Keefe Funeral Home Chapel in Gautier with Rev. Bob Storie officiating.

Interment will be at Vancleave Cemetery on Jim Ramsey Road.

There will be a gathering after the graveside service at Martin Bluff Baptist Church, 7417 Martin Bluff Road, Gautier. A Celebration of his life will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, 2005, at

Pascagoula Beach Park, sponsored by Gautier High School students. T-shirts in Michael's honor are available at Singing River Mall.



MESTAYER

Nora Bingham Mestayer, 71, of Pascagoula, Miss., departed this life on Jan. 11, 2005. She was a native of Hammond, Ind., and a resident of Pascagoula for 43 years.

The daughter of Edward and Nancy Bingham, Nora was born on April 17, 1933, and was one of six children. She received her nursing degree from the University of Indiana, and also worked as a flight attendant in New York City, where she met and married Roland J. Mestayer Jr. in 1958. She was a devoted Catholic and an active member of Sacred Heart Parish. She was a loving wife, mother of five, and grandmother of 15. Nora was a master gardener, a gourmet cook, and a world traveler who over the years enjoyed snow skiing, running, pottery and painting. Her generous, loving spirit touched countless lives and she will be forever missed by all of those who knew her.

Survivors include her husband of 46 years and five children: Dr. Roland J. Mestayer III, (Suzie) Mignon Mestayer Delashment, Nora Mestayer Wikoff, (Edward) Elliot G. Mestayer and Matthew G. Mestayer; three brothers, Daniel Bingham, Pat Bingham and Edward Bingham; 15 grandchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Mass of the Resurrection will be at 12 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 14, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Pascagoula, where friends may visit beginning at 10 a.m. Friday morning. Burial will follow at Machpelah Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Resurrection Catholic School in Pascagoula.